

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 10447 262133Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9727

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ENERGY TALKS WITH VENEZUELA

REF: CARACAS 10123

1. EMBASSY AGAIN REVIEWED CURRENT STATUS OF WORKING LEVEL ENERGY TALKS WITH MARIANO GURFINKEL, GOV ENERGY ADVISOR ON OCTOBER 25. GURFINKEL REITERATED POINTS REPORTED REFTEL, SAYING THAT GOV EXPECTS THESE TALKS TO PRODUCE A TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE SUBSEQUENT SCHLESINGER-HERNANDEZ BILATERAL. ASKED AGAIN ABOUT SPECIFIC TOPICS, HE SAID GOV IS INTERESTED IN REVIEWING DEMAND AND SUPPLY OUTLOOK, I.E. GOV TEAM WILL WANT TO COMPARE ESTIMATES OF FUTURE U.S. DEMAND FOR OIL AND PRODUCTS AND ESTIMATES OF VENEZUELA'S LIKELY SUPPLY AVAILABILITIES, AND POSSIBLY IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREAS. HE SAID THAT WHILE OTHER TOPICS MAY BE RAISED, THESE WOULD BE OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE AT THIS POINT.

2. GURFINKEL ASKED AGAIN IF NOVEMBER 10-11 DATES WERE FIRM AND REQUESTED NAMES OF LIKELY PARTICIPANTS ON U.S. SIDE. HE INDICATED THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE MAKE-UP OF THE VENEZUELAN TEAM.

3. EMBASSY PROPOSES THAT PETROLEUM AND ENERGY OFFICER ROBERT H. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CARACA 10447 262133Z

KNICKMEYER BE AUTHORIZED TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS. EMBASSY WILL NO DOUBT BE CALLED UPON TO FOLLOW UP RESULTS OF THIS AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS AND WE BELIEVE THIS CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVELY DONE IF THE EMBASSY'S ACTION OFFICER IS PRESENT. VENEZUELAN PARTICIPANTS HAVE REPEATEDLY ASKED IF EMBASSY OFFICER WILL BE PRESENT. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT KNICKMEYER TRAVEL NOVEMBER 8 SO AS TO BE AVAILABLE ONE DAY PRIOR TO TALKS. IF DEPARTMENT

BELIEVES FURTHER CONSULTATIONS IN STATE AND DOE WOULD BE USEFUL AT THIS TIME, HE COULD REMAIN PART OF FOLLOWING WEEK. WE PREFER HE NOT TRAVEL BEFORE NOVEMBER 8 DUE TO VISIT HERE BY DOE NUCLEAR ENERGY TEAM BEGINNING NOVEMBER 7.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO CONFIRM NOV. 10-11 AS DATES FOR WORKING LEVEL MEETING AND TO PROVIDE, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS ON U.S. SIDE AS WELL AS LIKELY TIMING AND LOCATION OF MEETINGS. AUTHORIZATION AND NECESSARY FISCAL DATA ARE ALSO REQUESTED FOR TRAVEL AND MINIMUM OF THREE DAYS CON-
SULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON FOR KNICKMEYER TO ENABLE EMBASSY TO ISSUE TRAVEL ORDERS.
VAKY

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